

On the question of the development of natural resources, the Council considered the third biennial report of the United Nations Water Resources Development Centre, approved a new work programme for it, and noted the progress being made in the desalination of water and the greater possibilities that now exist for harnessing non-conventional sources of energy : solar, winds, and geothermal.

The Council also passed resolutions concerning emergency aid to Costa Rica, town twinning, the World Campaign for Universal Literacy, and the United Nations Disaster Fund. In the field of social and human rights affairs, the Council discussed the report of the Commission on Human Rights, the report of the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning and the question of ratification by governments of the 1956 Convention on Slavery.

Functional Commissions

Of the seven Functional Commissions of ECOSOC, only the Human Rights Commission and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs met in 1964. Canada is a member of both.

Human Rights Commission

At its twentieth session in New York in February and March, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights devoted much of its time to drafting, at the request of the General Assembly, a Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination. It is designed to give the binding force of an international agreement to a Declaration on this subject adopted by the General Assembly in 1963. A 15-member working group, including Canada, began the drafting of a Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Religious Intolerance and submitted to the Commission six draft articles for inclusion in it. In addition to these two items, the Commission appointed a committee to review the Secretary-General's triennial report on developments and achievements in human rights and another committee to recommend a programme of measures and activities to mark the International Year for Human Rights to be held in 1968.

Commission on Narcotic Drugs

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs, to which Canada was elected in 1964 for a further three-year term, represents the major drug-producing countries of the world and those countries where drug addiction and traffic in drugs are serious social problems. Its nineteenth session, held in Geneva in May 1964, studied progress over the preceding year in traffic control,